Separate Postal Accounts Office for NER

860. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to consider the establishment of a separate postal accounts office for the North-East Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be established alongwith its proposed locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Heads of West Bengal and North East Postal Circles have been asked to prepare and submit a comprehensive proposal for bifurcation of work of Postal Accounts Office, Calcutta with a view to creating a separate Postal Accounts Office for North East Circle.

(c) For establishing Postal Accounts Office for North East Circle no time frame has been fixed.

As regards location, it has been the general practice to locate the office at the respective Postal Circle headquarters.

[English]

Rakesh Mohan Committee Report

861. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMAWAR :
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received Rakesh Mohan Committee Report to suggest structural modifications in the existing set up to streamline administration etc.;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the National Highway Board of national level is likely to be set up to facilitate planning and time bound implementation of highway programme, mobilise the required private fund from domestic and international markets and maintain and massage National and State Highways; and

(d) the details of performance achieved upto March 31, 1998 in regard to the National/ State Highways and the action plan for the current year with State-wise break-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Among the various recommendations made in the Rakesh Mohan Committee Report the following were accepted in respect of National Highways:

(i) Bankable projects relating to bypass, bridges, road over bridges and 4-laning of National Highways to be built through private sector.

(ii) Highway development policy has been adopted.

(iii) Comprehensive guidelines and procedures for awarding works to private sector approved.

(c) The proposal is at conceptual stage.

(d) Under the Constitution, the National Highways are the responsibility of the Central Government while the State Highways that of the concerned State Government. For the year 1997-98, a sum of Rs. 551.24 crores was allocated for development works on National Highways as per distribution to the various States given in the Statement enclosed. The entire sum has been utilised. As regards the current year, the budget is yet to be approved by Parliament, thereafter the action plan will be drawn up.

Statement

Sl No.	Name of State/ UTs.	National Highway (Original) Works during 1997-98
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2949.83
2.	Arunachal Pr.	0.00
3.	Assam	1821.00
4.	A & N. Island	0.00
5.	Bihar	1900,00
6.	Chandigarh	30.00
7.	Delhi	800.00
8.	Goa	900.00
9.	Gujarat	3675.00
10.	Haryana	1100.00
11.	Himachal Pr.	1700.00
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	150.00
13.	Karnataka	2900.00
14.	Kerala	3600.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1700.00
16.	Maharashtra	2900.00
17.	Manipur	700.00
18.	Meghalaya	920.00
19.	Mizoram	0.00
20.	Nagaland	100.00